'il recommends to the Government that, if within a reasonable time no acceptable offers from private agents reach the Government, the Cochin Tanneries Ltd., shall be taken up by the Government and worked.''

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—That point was not discussed at all.

Deputy President.—Is the amendment after all the discussion is over ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In that case I shall not press the resolution as it now stands. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

(*The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

7. Disbursement of Agricultural loans.

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The object of the resolution is to bring to the notice of the Government certain irregularities in the administration of agricultural loans as at present distributed. After giving notice of this resolution I had occasion to examine the Loan Register maintained in the Diwan Peishkar's Office with the permission of the then Diwan Peishkar. There were 184 loans outstanding, of which 25 are for sums above Rs. 3,000, and 58 between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 3,000 and the rest below Rs. 1,000. A reading of those names will also disclose the fact that these loans are at present advanced to contractors, village officers, lawyers, doctors and merchants, and one would sadly miss the names of true agriculturists. The object of these loans is admittedly the improvement of agriculture. If the desired object is to be gained, surely the amount ought to be given to the actual cultivators of the soil. But an examination of this register will show that these loans are not given, mostly, I say, to real agriculturists. And then it also covers big sums to the extent of some 20,000 rupees to one individual in Chittur Taluk. This loan of 20 thousand rupees to one individual is given to a person who is admittedly a very rich man, and it is given on two occasions at the rate of 10,000 rupees each. There are several others ; for instance, doctors, who do not go to the land at all, have been given loans. I shall not single out all the other instances. It is enough if I say that there is a wide-spread complaint that these sums are not really utilised for the improvement of agriculture. And if this state of affairs is allowed to continue, since His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to reduce the rate of interest to 3 per cent, these borrowers can invest the money in a hundi at a higher rate of interest and they will be able to pay up the capital by the difference and amass a

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fortune without utilising the loans for agricultural purposes. The object of His Highness is the improvement of agriculture, and I am sure at least the present incumbent of the office will try his best to see that the real object is gained by utilising these loans for the improvement of agriculture. Of course even now it is one of the conditions that the diversion of the fund for purposes other than agriculture will be a condition for the Government to recover the loan at once. There is a clause in the bond at present to that effect but it is not enforced at all. Nobody looks into this as to what is being done with the money when once the money is given. I know an instance where one gentleman used the money for the construction of his house without spending a pie for the improvement of agriculture. It is to bring these points to the attention of the Government that I have tabled this resolution which reads thus:—" *This Council recommends that agricultural loans disbursed by Government be in future distributed in small sums as far as possible to cultivators of the soil on the strict condition that the diversion of the fund for any purpose other than agricultural will entail the penalty of the immediate recovery of the amount by the Government.*"

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I second it.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, I beg to support this resolution. I am sure this resolution will be readily accepted by the House and also by the Government. But what is far more important is the strict enforcement of the rule that money should be spent for agricultural purposes. Money should, as far as possible, be given to cultivators in small sums, so that a very great number may benefit thereby. But an exception may be made in the case of plantation owners. Sir, estate owners are now facing a crisis owing to the rubber slump, and if plantations in Cochin are in need of help, I hope the authorities will give them also the benefit of these loans.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.— On a point of information, may I know from the Government whether these loans are given for carrying on agriculture or improvement of lands?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The Act defines the purposes for which the loans may be granted. I suppose a reading of the Act will clear the difficulty of the Hon'ble Member as to what those purposes are, and if any purpose for which the loan is applied does not come under the definition, it is not a purpose for which the Government will give the loan.

As regards the resolution, the Government accept the principle enunciated by the Hon'ble mover of the resolution. Personally, I am for granting small loans, of course, as far as possible. My idea is to distribute this munificent grant of money

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among as many applicants as possible. (*Hear, hear.*) In fact, after I took charge, I have not granted any loan but am keeping all applications for the time being just to see how best I may distribute the grant. There are applicants for Rs. 10,000, 7,500. 5,000, 3,000 and so on, and to some of them I plainly said that I will not pay a single pie. They wanted me to return the documents that they have given, but I said that I would do so after knowing the sense of this House and asked them to come to me after the 15th when I return to Trichur. I am in perfect agreement with the principle enunciated in the resolution, and the Government also agree with me in thinking that that ought to be the principle on which we should work. (*Hear, hear.*) There is no difference of opinion upon this point.

There is, however, considerable difficulty in distributing the amount in a proper manner, and I don't know who will help me. I can only rely upon my subordinate revenue officers and in many cases there may be mistakes committed. But you may take it as an assurance from me that it will be a mistake innocently committed. I am trying my best; I do not know whom I can approach and whose opinions I can safely take. There are the Panchayat members, but I do not know whether they can be approached safely. There are the Co-operative Societies. I am not quite sure whether they will help me properly. There are my Tahsildars on whom I can rely; but then my Tahsildars depend largely upon their subordinates. In fact there is real difficulty and the question is seriously engaging my attention as to how best it can be solved.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I would suggest that no loan above Rs. 100 should be granted without the Diwan Peishkar's knowledge.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—My present idea is not to allow the Tahsildars to grant any loans though the rule is that they may advance loans up to Rs. 500. I have personally told the Tahsildars not to make any disbursements now. My idea is to order that no loans should be granted without my sanction. What I propose to do is to go to each taluk, take all the applications received from the taluk, consult all the leading men of the place and then make the grants. If they will help me, they will be really helping themselves and the public. I shall try to do my best on these lines. If I fail, it will not be my fault.

Deputy President.—There are some amendments to this resolution.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— I don't move my amendment to add the following words 'on sufficient security, not necessarily first mortgage' between the words 'soil' and 'on'.

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Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I also don't move my amendment to omit the words 'in small sums as far as possible' after distributed' and before 'to cultivators of the soil, etc.'

(*Hence they were considered withdrawn.*)

Deputy President.—The amendments are not moved. The Government accepts the resolution and so it need not be put to the vote.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—One more point strikes me. The wording of the resolution "be in future distributed in small sums as far as possible to cultivators of the soil" is open to objection. You have to read that with the section itself. There, in addition to what is required in the resolution, it is said 'or with the consent of that person to any other person". In some cases the actual cultivators of the soil may not be inclined to spend and others are also entitled to this loan with the consent of the cultivators. I only wanted to bring this fact to the notice of the House.

8. Thaipooyam day to be a holiday.

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that Thaipooyam day in Makaram may be made a holiday for Hindus throughout the State every year.*" The resolution speaks for itself, and I do not think a speech is necessary. This is an important Hindu festival. All sections of Hindus celebrate this every year, and in fact it is growing in importance year by year. I suppose there will be no objection for having a holiday for the Hindus on that day. With these few words, I commend the resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I second it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We want to know the view of the Government.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Government is indifferent in the matter. Holidays are welcome.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—If the Government accept the resolution, it need not be put to the vote.

Deputy President.—Now it will have to be put to the vote.

(*The resolution was put to the vote of the House and agreed to, Government remaining neutral.*)

9. Land-Mortgage Bank.

Deputy President.—The next resolution is in the name of Mr. K. T. Mathew. The Member is absent.

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